

411th Engineers Improve Camp War Eagle

By Sgt. Dan Purcell

122nd MPAD

CAMP WAR EAGLE- There's nothing like taking a hot shower to wash away the dust, sweat and fatigue that accompanies life out on patrol, if you can get it. Making these showers available for the troops is the job of Company A, 411th Combat Heavy Engineer Battalion, a reserve unit based out of Hawaii.

"Currently, we have been assigned to build a force protection wall and fix the plumbing problems in the barracks," said 1st Lt. Kelly Heth, general construction platoon leader. "The carpenters we brought along with us are also building benches for the showers and making other small improvements in order to help improve the Soldiers' quality of life."

In addition to renovating the showers, his Soldiers have had an opportunity to practice their skills as plumbers, carpenters and electricians, and even learn new trades, Heth said.

Staff Sgt. Mel Mizukami, a squad leader with the company, said his squad is responsible for taking the barrack's

water tanks out of the ground and building cement platforms to place them on.

"The problem with where the tanks are now is that they were not placed properly, so there is a lot of seepage, and the water is getting contaminated," Mizukami said. "So, by taking the tanks out of the ground, you end up with a cleaner water system."

But the unit couldn't get the work done without teamwork.

"My squad is prepping the hot water heaters by replacing the wiring and piping them in," Staff Sgt. Stuart Duke, a squad leader, said. "I've got a great bunch of Soldiers. I have a lot of confidence in them because they are engineers and whatever they get tasked to do, they make it work."

Outside of the Army, Heth said many of the Soldiers in the battalion are construction contractors with their own businesses, college students or have other diversified careers. And as diverse as their skills are, so are their nationalities.

"In our battalion we have people who came from all over

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By Sgt. Dan Purcell, 122nd MPAD

Spc. Chelsea Evangelista, carpenter/mason, and Staff Sgt. Fertom Ariquitoke (left), plumber, both from Company A, 411th Engineer Battalion, measure and cut rebar that will be used to build platforms for new water tanks.

Soldiers Detain Insurgents in Double Raid

By Pfc. Al Barrus

122nd MPAD

AL RASHID, Baghdad, Iraq- An Iraqi insurgent cell leader was captured during a two-part raid in Al Rashid Wednesday by the Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 21st Field Artillery Regiment and 1st

Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment, both of 5th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division.

The primary target of the raid, a Sunni cell leader and financier, was detained at his used-car lot in Al Sadiyah along with 24 other men, said

Capt. Michael Levy, 1-21 FA information officer. All others were released except for the cell leader's brother and two of his associates. The car lot was raided by Battery A, 1-21 FA, while Troop B, 1-7 Cav., raided the cell leader's home; a farm south of Al Radwanayah.

The captured cell leader is allegedly linked to the kidnapping of Russian tourists, the murder of Spanish troops, attacks on U.S. forces and weapon trafficking, said Capt. Christopher Wehri, Troop B executive officer for 1-7 Cav.

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By Sgt. Dan Purcell, 122nd MPAD

Spc. Dale Balsis, a heavy equipment operator with Company A, 411th Engineer Battalion, helps guide an Alaskan barrier into place.

Diverse Group Works Together To Make Improvements

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the United States," Heth said. "We have just about every nationality you can think of and they all came here to serve their country. They are all well educated, and we work together more as a team because we have to brainstorm a lot to get the job."

"As for Company A, Heth said, each squad has its own idea on how they do business,

and at War Eagle they get every chance to prove what they can do.

"When we first got here, the plumbing in the barracks was in pretty bad shape," Sgt. Mel Tabion, a plumber with Company B, said. "Some of it was okay, but it was all built very quickly and for the short term. We'll have the plumbing in good working order before we leave."

Iraqi Word of the Day

Emergency! Tawa-r-i

Baghdad, Iraq

Thursday

High: 102
Low: 76



Friday

High: 100
Low: 75



Saturday

High: 102
Low: 78



Weather information provided by 1CD Staff Weather Office (SWO)

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Car Lot, Farm Raids Net Results

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"[The target] started out a year ago in a group of six and they keep making new cells," Wehri said. "He gets one guy to start one, and [then] he gets another. This target is one of the key leaders."

At the farmhouse, the only person detained was the target's father. Three AK-47s and 400 rounds of ammo were found at the home, as well as some electrical equipment they suspected was used to make explosives. The Soldiers expected to find the cell leader at his place of work, Wehri said.

"We found the [identification] and some paperwork with our target's name on it, even though the target's father said he didn't live there," said Staff Sgt. Jose Najera, a search team leader in Troop B, 1-7 Cav.

Aside from the cell leader and his brother and father, nine women and 11 children lived at the farm home.

"At first they were scared, but they cooperated really well after they calmed down," Najera said. "We brought a lot of candy and toys for the kids so they would be cool."

In a normal cordon and knock, the situation will usually start out calm and remain that way, Najera said. But because of the history of the targets, this search was con-



By Pfc. Al Barrus, 122nd MPAD

As part of a cordon and search at a farmhouse, cavalry scout Pfc. Justin Rychanek of Troop B, 1-7 Cav. shovels through a heap of sand and gravel for any contraband.

ducted like a raid, which is carried out differently.

"There's a difference between a cordon and knock and a raid," he said. "In a cordon and knock, you knock on the door first and ask them to get outside the house. In a raid you rush in there and tell them to get out. This was a raid."

It can be a dangerous job, but it's a job that needs to be done.

"You always get a little bit of a rush when you're clearing a room," Spc. Arnulfo Padilla, a cavalry dismount, said. "You have several people whose lives are in your hands; we have to stay on the same sheet of music and stay focused."

Bryan Kinkade, Spc. Andy Miller, Spc. Michelle Newbold, Spc. Marie Whitney, Pfc. Al Barrus, Pfc. Erik LeDrew

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Orange County Teen Endeavors to Collect 'A Million Thanks'

► From *The Orange County Register*

ORANGE, Calif.- High-school freshman Shauna Fleming sat in a small radio booth next to country-music star John Michael Montgomery, who has sold millions of albums and has a nationwide fan base.

But most of the host's questions went to the 15-year-old from Orange. She calmly leaned toward the microphone and explained that she was leading the "A Million Thanks" campaign to collect a million letters of appreciation for U.S. troops and needed help from listeners.

As she spoke, her voice carried over the airwaves to an estimated 2 million listeners across the country last week.

Such scenes have become almost common over the last two months for the student from Lutheran High School of Orange County.

She has appeared on ABC and FOX national news, syndicated radio and even on the NASCAR race circuit to promote an idea that started April 1 as a school project and has grown into a nationwide drive to support the U.S. military.

So far, Fleming's Web site - [amillionthanks.org](http://www.amillionthanks.org) - has had more than 900,000 visits. But with just two weeks to go, she has collected just over 300,000 letters and e-mails.

On Sunday, she flew with her parents to Nashville to begin a two-day radio tour - "I guess they call it a junket or something like that," Fleming shrugged. Montgomery will be there again to lend his star power and to promote her drive on 50 of the South's top radio stations.

She's looking forward to the whirlwind of activity.

The radio tour is part of a final push to reach a million letters - the mark Fleming had set as a goal by the end of May (National Military Appreciation Month).

She may not reach a million by month's end. But Fleming said she is far from discouraged.

Letters have poured in from schoolchildren, relatives of service members and people who just want to say thanks.

Envelopes have included poems, dried flowers and calling cards encouraging service members overseas to phone home. One boy taped 75 cents



The Orange County Register

Shauna Fleming, 15, is on a mission to collect a million thank-you notes for U.S. troops. Race-car driver Kevin O'Connell is helping her in her goal by displaying her Web site, www.amillionthanks.org, on his car.

to the inside of his card.

Marines and Soldiers serving in Iraq have e-mailed Fleming to return the thanks.

"It makes me realize how much they appreciate it and, compared to what they are doing for us, the time I'm spending is no sacrifice at all," she said.

So even when the end of May comes and if she reaches the million mark, Fleming will continue to sort mail and forward it to the troops.

After school gets out June 10, she plans to spend more time on her campaign.

And if she's asked, she'll

continue to do interviews - even though she's tired of "the same ol' questions."

"Seems like I'm always asked, 'Do you know how much a million is?'"

"Maybe I'm only 15, but I get what a million is," she laughed.

To get involved: Mail cards or letters to A Million Thanks c/o Orange Lutheran High School, 2222 North Santiago Blvd., Orange, CA 92867. For more information on the Internet: www.amillionthanks.org

U.S. Mint To Unveil Texas' Commemorative Quarters Today

► From AP

The state's commemorative quarters are now making their way through the banking system and into the hands of Texans.

The U.S. Mint will formally unveil the quarter in Austin on Thursday, but it released the coins into circulation last week. The Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas began distributing them to commercial banks in Texas yesterday.

The back of the Texas coin

features an outline of the state with a Lone Star superimposed on it. The top of the coin says "Texas" with 1845, the year Texas became a state, just beneath the state's name. The rim of the quarter is encircled by a lariat.

Arlington artist Daniel Miller came up with the quarter design, which was selected in 2002 from among 2,700 entries.



U.S. Mint: <http://www.usmint.gov>
Texas

The Texas quarter is the third quarter of 2004, and the 28th in the 50 State Quarters® Program.

On December 29, 1845, Texas became the 28th state to be admitted into the Union. The quarter's reverse design incorporates an outline of the State with a star superimposed on the outline and the

inscription, "The Lone Star State." The lariat encircling the design is symbolic of the cattle and cowboy history of Texas, as well as the frontier spirit that tamed the land.

Texas comes from the Indian word "tejas," meaning friends or allies, and appropriately Texas's motto is "Friendship." Probably the two most recognized symbols of Texas are its unique shape and the lone star that is represented on the State flag.

Today in History

June 10

► From historychannel.com

1692 First Salem witch hanging
 1864 Battle of Brice's Crossroads
 1881 Count Leo Tolstoy sets off on a pilgrimage to a monastery disguised as a peasant
 1922 Judy Garland born in Grand Rapids, Minn.
 1940 Italy declares war on France and Great Britain
 1940 Norway surrenders to Germany
 1953 President Dwight Eisenhower rejects calls for U.S. "isolationism"
 1968 Gen. William Westmoreland gives farewell press conference in Saigon before turning over command of U.S. forces in Vietnam to Gen. Creighton Abrams
 1980 Nelson Mandela, the long imprisoned leader of the anti-apartheid movement, makes a public statement through the African National Congress (ANC)



Associated Press

Los Angeles Lakers' Kobe Bryant (8) goes up for a three-pointer against Detroit Pistons' Richard Hamilton (32) as the Pistons' bench watches in the final seconds of Game 2 of the NBA Finals, Tuesday, June 8, in Los Angeles. Bryant made the shot to tie the game and send it into overtime. The Lakers went on to win, 99-91.



SAFETY TIP

Sports

Prior to running or engaging in any sport, make sure you:

- Warm up and stretch
- Recon running route and playing field (mark obstacles)
- Watch for holes, dropoffs, and uneven terrain



COMMON SENSE RULES DO NOT CHANGE BECAUSE YOU ARE IN A COMBAT ZONE

TV GUIDE

	AFN ATLANTIC	AFN PACIFIC	AFN Sports	AFN Spectrum
6 p.m.	Yu-Gi-Oh!/ Jackie Chan Adventures	The Tonight Show with Jay Leno/ The Late Show with David Letterman	AMA Motocross	Masterpiece Theater
7 p.m.	Jeopardy/ Headline News	Access Hollywood 7:45 p.m.	SportsCenter	The Wild Thornberrys/ Spongebob Squarepants
8 p.m.	ESPNews/ Headline News	Battle of the Bulge	ESPNews/ Baseball Tonight 8:20 p.m.	The Simpsons/ Happy Days
9 p.m.	Everybody Loves Raymond/ Scrubs/ Reel Time		MLB - Atlanta Braves @ Detroit Tigers	One Tree Hill
10 p.m.	Extreme Makeover			The West Wing



MLB

INTERLEAGUE PLAY

Baltimore 8
 Arizona 2

Cleveland 8
 Florida 1

New York 7
 Colorado 5

Toronto 4
 Los Angeles 0

Tampa Bay 4 (10 innings)
 San Francisco 3

Philadelphia 13
 Chicago White Sox 10

Pittsburgh @ Texas
 (postponed due to rain)

Montreal @ Kansas City
 (postponed due to rain)

Minnesota 5
 New York Mets 3

NATIONAL LEAGUE

St. Louis 12
 Chicago Cubs 4



NBA

FINALS

(Best of 7 series)
 Game 2 - Tuesday

Los Angeles 99 (OT)
 Detroit 91

(Series tied 1-1)

FIRST TEAM